(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of heavily armed mercenaries backed by enhanced troop strength have been amassed by Pakistan at certain points along the Line of Control in Northern J & K as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 20th March, 2000;

(b) whether Pakistan Government had also placed orders for purchase of huge amount of winter stocking including snow-boots and mountaineering skiing equipment from European countries; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto indicating whether Pak army/mercenary/concentration could have serious security ramifications for India especially during ensuing summer season?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Available reports indicate that Pakistan has procured/is procuring special clothing and equipment over and above its normal requirement.

(c) All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to deal with all contingencies.

Taking over of Roads by BRO

2776. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Border Roads Organisation has taken over roads of strategic importance in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of such roads; and

(c) the problems faced by the BRO in construction of such roads and the criteria/norms laid down for determination of such roads of strategic importance?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Names of the roads taken over are given in the statement (*see* below).

(c) For roads being constructed in inaccessible and inhospitable areas, transporation of equipments and others supplies to work site is the main problem. The criteria for determination of roads of strategic importance is governed by the operational plan of the Army. There is no fixed criterion/norms laid down.

STATEMENT

Taking over of Roads by BRO

Sl. No.	Name of roads
1.	Balipara Charduar-Tawang
2.	Tawang-Womingla
3.	Tawang-PTSO-Y Jn (Tawang-Pangateng Tso-Y Jn)
4.	'Y' Junction-Zimithang-Nalya
5.	Khrimu-Gashela
6.	Bomdir-Lumla
7.	Lumla-Nyamjungchu
8.	Lumla-BTK-Zimithang
9.	Sela-Chabrela
10.	N. Phu-Bana-Seppa (Nichi Phu-Bana-Seppa)
11.	Alternate route to Tawang
	(a) Morshing-Pudung
	(b) Mandalla-Dabrabu
	(c) Dabrabu-Naga GG (Dabrabu-Naga Grazing Ground)
	(d) Naga GG-BJ Gompa (Naga Grazing Ground-Banga Junga Gompa)
	(e) Bj Gompa-LGG (Banga Junga Gompa-Lagamche Grazing Ground)
12.	Jang-Ramaspur
13.	Short Length roads
14.	Kayache GG-Nasar GG
15.	Nasar GG-KM 22
16.	KM 22-Lungro GG
17.	Chung Br-Rupa-Gachem

Sl. No.	Name of roads
18.	Road Admn Depot
19.	Likabali-Along
20.	Along-Kaying
21.	Tato-Menchukha
22.	Migging-Tuting
23.	Bame-Deporijo
24.	Kimin-Ziro
25.	Deporijo-Thaliha
26.	Roing-Hunli
27.	Hunli-Anini
28.	Tezu-Hayuliang
29.	Hayuliang-Changwanti
30.	Changwanti-Walong-Namti
31.	Namti-Kibithu
32.	Walong-Helmet Top
33.	Tilam-Pt 1845
34.	Karoti-Karoti Gun Posn
35.	Deban-'T' Jn
36.	Nizamghat-Roing
37.	Chowkam-Alubarighat-Digaru
38.	Khonsa-Pongchau-Kunsa
39.	Tissa-Wakka-Kanu
40.	Khonsa-Laju

(GG=Grazing Ground)

PS : The BRO is also building some other roads. It will not be in the national interest to divulge the details because of the sensitive nature of their strategic significance.

Attack on Border outpost in J&K

2777. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan army recently attacked on a border outpost in Akhnoor in the Jammu and Kashmir sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the casualties suffered by the Indian and Pak army;

(c) what are the other areas on the LoC where Pak Army have launched attack after the Kargil conflict; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government to fortify the LoC to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 22nd January, 2000 at 0500 hrs approximately, 25 Pak soldiers led by an Officer and supported by heavy Mortar fire, Heavy and Medium Machine guns, recoiless guns and rocket launchers attacked our post near Raipur in Akhnoor sector. The attack was repulsed with heavy casualties on the Pakistan side by our troops. Five bodies of Pakistani soldiers including that of an Officer along with three rifles, six carbines, one universal machine gun and one rocket launcher were recovered by our troops. Two more bodies were lying in the Sarkanda, close to our post. Two Indian soliders were killed and two injured.

(c) Details of Pak Army attacks on our posts after Kargil conflict are given in the statement (*see* below).

(d) All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and all necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness.